

## **Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees Work Session Minutes**

Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 6:00 PM

### **1. Call to Order (6:03 PM)**

President Rhonda Newhouse called the Work Session of the Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees to order at 6:03 PM on November 4, 2021, in the Board Room of the Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center, 16717 Ella Boulevard, Houston, Texas, in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

#### **Members Present:**

Rhonda Newhouse, President  
Kelly P. Hodges, Secretary  
Justine Durant, Assistant Secretary  
Dr. Deborah Jensen  
Carmen Correa  
Natasha McDaniel

#### **Members Absent:**

Winford Adams, Jr., Vice President

#### **Others Present:**

Rodney Watson, Superintendent of Schools  
Mark Miranda, Executive Chief of District Operations  
Ken Culbreath, Chief of Police  
Julie Hill, Chief of Human Resources and Human Capital Accountability  
Lupita Hinojosa, Chief of Innovation and Equity  
Ann Westbrook, Chief Financial Officer  
Jeremy Binkley, General Counsel  
Jason Sheffer, Director of Board Services

### **2. Minutes from Prior Meetings (6:04 PM)**

The Board reviewed the minutes from the prior month's meetings.

October 7, 2021 Board Work Session

October 12, 2021 Regular Meeting

October 18, 2021 Special Called Session

### **3. Opening Remarks (6:04 PM)**

#### **3.1. Superintendent of Schools (6:04 PM)**

Superintendent Dr. Rodney Watson highlighted the presentations that would follow on the agenda including a presentation of the district's comprehensive attendance plan and a presentation on the district's literacy plan.

### **4. Agenda Participation (6:05 PM)**

Members of the public did not register to speak to the Board.

### **5. Presentations (6:06 PM)**

#### **5.1. Comprehensive Attendance Plan (6:06 PM)**

A presentation was made on Spring ISD's Comprehensive Attendance Plan.

The presentation included a review of the Comprehensive Attendance Committee, a cross-functional department committee that supports the district's goal of improving student attendance. The two main foci are Preventative Measures and the Truancy and Runaway Plan.

The presentation highlighted attendance goals (including increasing the student attendance rate to 95.1% from the 2019 school year attendance rate of 93.6%) and truancy prevention measures (including establishing a comprehensive district wide plan to address student attendance for the purposes of meeting the state 90% attendance requirement for student credit per TEA).

#### **5.2. Spring Independent School District's Literacy Plan (6:41 PM)**

A presentation was made to provide an update on the district's PK-12 literacy plan.

The key components of the literacy plan include:

1. Aligned Curriculum
  - Science of Teaching Reading
  - Structured Curriculum
  - Instructional Models
2. Corresponding Progress Measures

- mCLASS, MAP, STAAR, Mindplay
  - Milestones by Grade Level
3. Differentiated Professional Development
    - Reading Academies
    - Literacy Across the Content
  4. Implemented with Fidelity
    - Instructional Walks and Teacher Coaching
    - Administrator Data Debriefs

## **6. General Counsel (7:38 PM)**

- 6.1. Notification of Legal Policies Revised by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) in Update 117 (7:38 PM)

Jeremy Binkley presented information regarding Legal Policies revised in TASB Update 117.

- 6.2. First Reading of TASB Local Update 117 – Proposed Revisions Affecting the Following Board Policies (7:40 PM)

Jeremy Binkley presented the first reading of Local Policies revised in TASB Update 117.

CH(LOCAL) – PURCHASING AND ACQUISITION

CV(LOCAL) – FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION

DEC(LOCAL) – COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS/LEAVES AND ABSENCES

## **7. Executive Chief of District Operations (8:05 PM)**

- 7.1. Remote Homebound Instruction Waiver – (GEH) and (CEHI) Program (8:05 PM)

Chief Mark Miranda presented information regarding the Remote Homebound Instruction Waiver.

This waiver allows Spring ISD to grant remote homebound instruction on a case-by-case basis for students that receive individualized instruction through the General Education Homebound (GEH) program, Homebound program, or Compensatory Education Home Instruction (CEHI) program and in which all requirements of the program are met except for in-person instruction from the homebound teacher.

## **8. Chief of Innovation and Equity (8:07 PM)**

### **8.1. Acceptance of Grant Funds – Houston Endowment, Inc. (8:07 PM)**

Chief Lupita Hinojosa presented the Board with information regarding grant funds totaling \$270,000 awarded by Houston Endowment, Inc.

In accordance with Board Policy, all grant funds in aggregate of \$10,000 or more must be approved by the Spring Independent School District's Board of Trustees.

The grant funds awarded by Houston Endowment, Inc. to the Spring Independent School District will support the planning/designing and implementation of the district's Opportunity Culture Residency program.

In Opportunity Culture Residencies, teachers with a record of high-growth student learning lead small instructional teams, and aspiring teachers earn degrees and certification while working full-time in one of these teams, with pay.

### **8.2. Acceptance of Grant Funds – Communities Foundation of Texas (8:12 PM)**

Chief Lupita Hinojosa presented the Board with information regarding grant funds totaling \$100,000 awarded by Communities Foundation of Texas.

In accordance with Board Policy, all grant funds in aggregate of \$10,000 or more must be approved by the Spring Independent School District's Board of Trustees.

The grant funds were awarded by Communities Foundation of Texas, through generous support from Houston Endowment, Inc., to the Spring Independent School District. The grant funds will be used to plan for the 2022-2023 ADSY (Additional Day School Year) calendar redesign program.

### **8.3. High-Dosage Tutoring Contract with Intervene K-12 (8:14 PM)**

Chief Lupita Hinojosa presented the Board with information regarding a contract with Intervene K-12.

Tenet 4 of the Spring ISD Recovery Framework identified the need for small group high-dosage tutoring to assist teachers in closing learning

gaps that occurred during the pandemic. The Spring ISD iZone campuses had the opportunity to pilot the Intervene tutoring system in the 2021 spring semester.

For the 2021-2022 school year, Intervene K-12 will provide live virtual tutoring to students at a ratio of 4:1 in reading and mathematics through the proposed contract.

## **9. Chief Financial Officer (8:19 PM)**

### **9.1. One-Time Supplemental Employee Payment (8:19 PM)**

Chief Ann Westbrook presented the Board with information regarding the payment of a one-time supplement to all employees in the amount of \$500 and \$250 for full-time and half-time employees, respectively.

The administration is recommending a one-time supplemental payment to all Spring ISD full-time and half-time employees. This payment is in recognition of work completed during the 2021-22 school year as the COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc on all aspects of the district's operations. The supplemental payment will also lay the foundation for the continued high expectations of all employees returning to work in Spring ISD in the 2021-22 school year.

### **9.2. 2020-21 First Budget Review (8:24 PM)**

Chief Ann Westbrook presented the Board with the 2020-21 First Budget Review.

In accordance with Board Policy CD(LOCAL), this review reflects amendments to the adopted budget.

Section 44.006 of the Texas Education Code mandates that public funds may not be expended in any manner other than as specified in the adopted budget, as properly amended.

### **9.3. Taxpayer Refunds (8:38 PM)**

Chief Ann Westbrook presented the Board with a report of taxpayer refunds exceeding \$500.

### **9.4. Report of Cooperative Purchases Exceeding \$50,000 (8:44 PM)**

Chief Ann Westbrook presented the Board with a report consisting of cooperative purchases exceeding \$50,000 that were made by the district through one or more authorized purchasing cooperatives.

<b>Procurement Services</b>			
<b>Period: September 17 – October 12, 2021</b>			
<b>General Funds – Total \$365,481</b>			
<b>PO Date</b>	<b>Vendor Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>PO Amount</b>
9/27/2021	Northwest Evaluation Association	Performance Evaluator Assessment	\$ 109,620
9/29/2021	Sterling Structures Inc.	Labor and Materials for Repairs at Carl Wunsche High School	\$ 137,044
9/29/2021	Frontline Education	Service Tracking, Transportation and PCS Bundle License	\$ 118,817
<b>Procurement Services</b>			
<b>Period: September 17 – October 12, 2021</b>			
<b>Bond Funds – Total \$1,404,803</b>			
<b>PO Date</b>	<b>Vendor Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>PO Amount</b>
9/10/2021	SHI	Cyber Security Software License – District Wide	\$ 534,668
9/27/2021	GTS Technology Solutions Inc.	Staffing Services – Laptop Onsite Imaging, Asset Tags and Delivery (750) and Dell Latitude Laptops (750)**	\$ 870,135
<b>Procurement Services</b>			
<b>Period: August 7 – September 16, 2021</b>			
<b>ESSER Funds – Total \$707,770</b>			
<b>PO Date</b>	<b>Vendor Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>PO Amount</b>
9/27/2021	Carnegie Learning	Textbook Consumables for 6th-7th, Student Digital License and Professional Development	\$ 544,890
9/27/2021	Quavered, Inc.	Social and Emotional Learning Curriculum Licenses Bundle for PreK-5th and Professional Development	\$ 152,880

\* Blanket Purchase Order for anticipated annual spend.

\*\* Bond Related Expenditures

\*\*\*Split Fund Purchase

9.5. Request for Proposal (RFP) # 22-003 – Career and Technical Education Products, Services and Programs (8:47 PM)

Chief Ann Westbrook presented the Board with information regarding Request for Proposal (RFP) # 22-003. The RFP was for competitive sealed proposals for the purpose of identifying qualified vendors to provide CTE products, services and programs to support the needs of the district.

- 9.6. Request for Proposal (RFP) # 22-004 – Vending Pre-Packaged Snacks (8:51 PM)

Chief Ann Westbrook presented the Board with information regarding Request for Proposal (RFP) # 22-004. The RFP was for competitive sealed proposals for the purpose of identifying a qualified vendor to provide vending pre-packaged snacks to support the needs of the district.

**10. Closed Session (8:53 PM)**

President Rhonda Newhouse recessed the open session at 8:53 PM for the purpose of entering into closed session pursuant to the following provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act:

- 10.1. Under Section 551.071 - For the purpose of a private consultation with the Board's attorney on any or all subjects or matters authorized, including any item posted on this agenda.

- 10.2. Under Section 551.072 - For the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property.

- 10.3. Under Section 551.074 - For the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee or to hear complaints or charges against a public officer or employee.

The Board will deliberate regarding the Superintendent's evaluation and goals.

The Board will deliberate on employees nominated for special recognition.

The Board will deliberate on a recommendation for the termination and finding of no good cause for an employee's abandonment of contract.

The Board will deliberate on the issuance of school district teaching permits for noncore career and technology courses.

The Board will deliberate on employee resignations, recommendations to withdraw prior actions taken, recommendations to void employee contracts, recommendations for the proposed termination of employees on probationary and/or term

contracts, and final orders for employees on term and probationary contracts previously proposed for termination and/or nonrenewal. The Board will deliberate and receive legal advice regarding procedures for filling superintendent vacancy.

- 10.4. Under Section 551.076 - To consider the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices.


**11. Actions on Closed Session Items (9:58 PM)**


President Rhonda Newhouse reconvened the open session at 9:58 PM.

- 11.1. Trustee Jensen moved that the Board approve the Resignation and Release Agreement between LaMech Thomas and Spring ISD as presented in closed session. Trustee Durant seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- 11.2. Trustee Hodges moved that the Board authorize the administration to post notice of a vacancy in the position of Superintendent of Schools effective February 1, 2022 in compliance with Texas Education Code Section 11.1513. Trustee Correa seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**12. Adjournment (10:00 PM)**

On a motion by Trustee Hodges, seconded by Trustee Durant, the Board unanimously adjourned the meeting at 10:00 PM.

  
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Justine Durant, President

  
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Kelly P. Hodges, Secretary